

December 12, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Community Television is important to our area of the country. With a wide range of income brackets and many aging folks who need access to government, public, and educational tv. We have a unique governing system where we have representative town meeting reps that vote on town budgets, etc. This and hundred of other reasons are why we need BCTV and its public access TV. We need people to engage in our democracy who cannot otherwise leave their home. Please be weary that our communities in Vermont and around the country have local economies built around small government which works to the ideals of both sides of the aisle. Please know that harm will be done on local jobs, transparency of media, and you will cease outlets for non-profits, libraries and food drives to have air time. Please make sure you support Brattleboro Community Television and all local TV providers when making decisions. Don’t squash the little guy because the corporate entities are putting pressure on you.

This local presence enables the residents of Brattleboro VT, Windham County to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Jon Megas-Russel, Resident, Brattleboro, VT